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VIA FACSIMILE

(Total No. of Pages Transmitted: 15)

To: Examiner Melanie M. Vida
Group Art Unit: 2626
U.S.P.T.O.

Facsimile No.: 703-746-9462

From: John J. Dresch, Esq.

Facsimile No.: 703-761-2375 or 76


Re: Enclosed Interview Agenda
U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/482,275
Attorney Docket No.: 4-154US-FF
Our Reference: USH.008

Dear Examiner Vida:

Enclosed is an interview agenda for the personal interview on Tuesday, June 29, 2004, at 9 AM, in Crystal Park I, in the above application.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,


John J. Dresch, Esq.
Registration No. 46,672

JJD/SMM
Enclosure

DRAFT – FOR INTERVIEW PURPOSES ONLYInterview agenda for U.S. Application No. 09/482,275

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USH.008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Norihisa HANEDA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/482,275

Group Art Unit: 2626

Filed: January 13, 2000

Examiner: Vida, Melanie M.

For: IMAGE DATA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, SERVER SYSTEM, METHOD OF CONTROLLING OPERATION OF SAME, AND RECORDING MEDIUM STORING PROGRAM FOR CONTROL OF SERVER SYSTEM

INTERVIEW AGENDA**Date / time / location.**

Tuesday, June 29, 2004 @ 9 AM

Crystal Park I (4th Floor - meet by elevators)**Participants:**

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DRAFT – FOR INTERVIEW PURPOSES ONLYInterview agenda for U.S. Application No. 09/482,275

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AGENDA:**1) Status of claims:**

Claims 1-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jebens (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,231). Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jebens in view of Manolis, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,799; hereinafter “Manolis”). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jebens in view of Hashimoto, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0012453; hereinafter “Hashimoto”).

2) Discuss the prior art rejections and compare to the features of claims.

Claims 1-6, 9, 11-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jebens.

In the claimed invention, the original-image data is received by the server system, whereupon an image data generating unit of the server system generates “reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data”, as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

That is, according to the claimed invention, the medium-image data and thumbnail-image data would be the same format (e.g., see specification at page 35, line 13 to page 36, line 15).

Thus, the claimed invention is capable of uploading image data possessing a plurality of image qualities to a server system and registering image data and search information for searching the image data in an image database in a comparatively simple manner, such that a

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plurality of client computers and a server system are capable of communicating with each other via a network.

On the other hand, as the Examiner points out (e.g., see Office Action, at page 4, lines 8-9), Jebens merely discloses that the medium-image data and the original image sent by the user are the same format, not that the thumbnail and the low resolution image file are the same format.

Specifically, Jebens discloses that:

both the low resolution and the original image file are stored in the file format selected by the user if the option discussed in connection with blocks 218 and 219 is implemented (see Jebens at column 10, lines 45-52; emphasis added).

As shown in Figure 4B, the thumbnail is generated (e.g., step 216) prior to and independent of the implementation of steps 218 and 219, in which it is determined whether the file format is correct.

Thus, Jebens does not necessarily disclose or suggest that the format of the two stages of image data in which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data are the same (i.e., that the low resolution image file and the thumbnail image file are the same format), but instead, discloses that the low resolution image file and the original image file can be the same format (e.g., see column 10, lines 45-52).

Applicants respectfully submit that Jebens clearly does not disclose or suggest generating “reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data”, as claimed.

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For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Jebens neither discloses nor suggests all of the recitations of claim 1, and therefore, claim 1 is neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious from, the Jebens reference.

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APPENDIX

1. (Previously presented) An image data communication system in which a plurality of client computers and a server system are capable of communicating with each other via a network, wherein one of said client computers includes:

an original-image data specifying unit for specifying original-image data that is to be transmitted to said server system; and

an original-image data transmitting unit for transmitting the original-image data, which has been specified by said original-image data specifying unit, to said server system; and

said server system includes:

an original-image data receiving unit for receiving the original-image data transmitted from said original-image data transmitting unit;

an image data generating unit, which responds to receipt of the original-image data by said original-image data receiving unit, for generating reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data; and

a unit for associating the original-image data, which has been received by said original-image data receiving unit, and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated by said image data generating unit.

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2. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said server system further includes a specific-format image data generating unit for generating image data including having a predetermined specific data format that is independent of the data format of the original-image data.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said image data generating unit generates reduced-data-quantity image data of a prescribed format that is independent of the data format of the original-image data.

4. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said server system further includes a memory in which the quantity of original-image data that can be stored is allocated beforehand to each client computer, said memory storing temporarily the original-image data that has been received by said original-image data receiving unit;

said original-image data transmitting unit of said client computer sending said server system the original-image data including having a data quantity less than the quantity of data allocated beforehand.

5. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein said server system further includes a data-quantity information transmitting unit for sending said client computer information representing a pre-allocated data quantity capable of being stored in said memory;

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said original-image data transmitting unit of said client computer sending said server system the original-image data including ~~having~~ a data quantity less than the quantity of data allocated beforehand based upon said information, which represents the data quantity, transmitted from said data-quantity information transmitting unit of said server system.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said server system further includes a storage unit for storing the original-image data and the reduced-data-quantity image data of two stages.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said server system further includes a color adjustment unit for applying color adjustment processing to at least one item of image data among the original-image data and reduced-data-quantity image data of two stages.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said client computer further includes:

a data specifying unit for specifying image data that is to undergo color adjustment among the original-image data and reduced-data-quantity image data of two stages; and

a specifying-data transmitting unit for sending said server system specifying data which represents the image data that has been specified by said data specifying unit; and

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said server system further includes a specifying-data receiving unit for receiving the specifying data that has been transmitted from said specifying-data transmitting unit of said client computer;

said color adjustment unit applying color adjustment processing to image data, which has been specified by said specifying data received by said specifying-data receiving unit, among the original-image data and reduced-data-quantity image data of two stages.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said client computer further includes a transmission requesting unit for sending said server system a request to transmit at least one item of image data among the original-image data and reduced-data-quantity image data of two stages that has been stored in said storage unit; and

said server system further includes:

a transmission-request receiving unit for receiving the transmission request transmitted from said transmission requesting unit of said client computer;

a first reception-privilege determination unit for determining whether the privilege to receive image data specified by the transmission request received by said transmission-request receiving unit resides with the client computer that issued the transmission request; and

a data transmitting unit, which is responsive to a determination by said first reception-privilege determination unit to the effect that the privilege resides with said client computer, for reading the image data specified by the transmission request out of said memory unit and transmitting this image data to said client computer, and which is responsive to a determination

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by said first reception-privilege determination unit to the effect that the privilege does not reside with said client computer, for sending said client computer data indicating that transmission is not allowed.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said server system further includes an end-message transmitting unit, which is responsive to storage of the original-image data and the reduced-data-quantity image data of two stages in said storage unit, for transmitting a message indicative of end of storage to said client computer that transmitted the original-image data.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said client computer further includes:

an image search-condition input unit for inputting image search conditions; and

an image search-condition transmitting unit for sending said client computer the image search conditions that have been input from said image search-condition input unit; and

said server system further includes:

an image search-condition receiving unit for receiving image search conditions that have been transmitted from said image search-condition transmitting unit;

a search unit for searching, on the basis of the image search conditions received by said image search-condition receiving unit, at least one item of data among the original-image data and the reduced-data-quantity image data of two stages stored in said storage unit; and

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a search-result information transmitting unit for sending said client computer information relating to results of the search conducted by said search unit.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said server system further includes a second reception-privilege determination unit for determining whether the privilege to receive image data, which has been found as a result of the search conducted by said search unit, resides with said client computer;

said search-result information transmitting unit, in response to a determination by said second reception-privilege determination unit to the effect that the reception privilege resides with said client computer, sending said client computer the image data found as a result of the search conducted by said search unit.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said client computer further includes an image display unit for displaying an image representing by image data of a prescribed format; and

said server system further includes a format conversion unit for converting the original-image data that has been received by said original-image data receiving unit to a format that is capable of being displayed by said image display unit;

said image data generating unit generating the reduced-data-quantity image data having a format that is capable of being displayed by said image display unit.

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14. (Previously presented) A server system capable of communicating with a client computer via a network, comprising:

an original-image data receiving unit for receiving the original-image data transmitted;

an image data generating unit, which responds to receipt of the original-image data by said original-image data receiving unit, for generating reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data; and

a unit for associating the original-image data, which has been received by said original-image data receiving unit, and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated by said image data generating unit.

15 and 16 (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) A method of controlling the operation of a server system capable of communicating with a client computer via a network, comprising:

receiving original-image data that is sent;

generating, in response to receipt of the original-image data, reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data; and

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associating the original-image data that has been received and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated.

18 and 19 (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) A recording medium storing a program for controlling a server system capable of communicating with a client computer via a network, said program controlling a computer of the server system so as to:

receive original-image data that has been sent;

generate, in response to receipt of the original-image data, reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data; and

associate the original-image data that has been received and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated.

21 and 22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented) An image data communication system in which a plurality of client computers and a server system are capable of communicating with each other via a network, wherein one of said client computers includes:

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means for specifying original-image data that is to be transmitted to said server system;

and

means for transmitting the original-image data, which has been specified by said means for specifying, to said server system; and

said server system includes:

means for receiving the original-image data transmitted from said means for transmitting;

means, which responds to receipt of the original-image data by said means for receiving, for generating reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data; and

means for associating the original-image data, which has been received by said means for receiving, and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated by said means for generating.

24. (Previously presented) A server system capable of communicating with a client computer via a network, comprising:

means for receiving the original-image data transmitted;

means for generating, which responds to receipt of the original-image data by said means for receiving, for generating reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data; and

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means for associating the original-image data, which has been received by said means for receiving, and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated by said means for generating.